
LEGAL

MISSION

The mission of the County Attorney's Office is to serve as the legal advisor to the Board of Commissioners; to defend the Board of Commissioners, the County, and the agencies of the County from actions brought against them; and to provide legal advice to the County's agencies in carrying out the mission of the County.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The County Attorney is the legal advisor to the Board of Commissioners. The County Attorney's Office also provides legal representation to the departments of County Government. All defense of lawsuits, other than workers compensation cases and medical malpractice cases covered by insurance, filed against the County or its employees and officers is provided by the County Attorney's Office.

Risk Management is a division of the County Attorney's Office. The Risk Management division is responsible for purchasing liability insurance as well as handling claims against the County to resolve them prior to any court action being necessary.

2002-03 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully defended all lawsuits against the County with no payments of damages.
- Prevailed in two actions in the appellate courts involving challenges to the method of assessment of apartment buildings financed with section 42 bonds, and the imposition of excise taxes on timber deeds.
- Worked with Board of Commissioners in selecting the form of Mental Health delivery in Durham County.
- Provided assistance to the departments regarding HIPPA obligations.
- Worked with the Board of Commissioners in developing legislative agenda for the County.
- Successfully assisted in the issuance of the County's first revenue bond for the wastewater treatment plant.

2003-04 OBJECTIVES

- Successfully defend the County from tort actions brought against it. It is the goal of the Office to have a seventh straight fiscal year with no tort actions in which the County has to pay damages.
- Prepare legal materials for bond elections.
- Conclude negotiations on the American Tobacco Project and on the LCOR project.
- Work with the Public Information Officer and the Board of Commissioners on legal aspects of the legislative agenda for the County.
- Complete work on the Impact Fee Ordinance.